

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 27 and 32-39 are pending, claims 25, 26 and 28-31 having been canceled in response to the restriction requirement applied thereto and claims 32-39 having been added. Non-narrowing amendments have been made to claims 1-6 and 8-12 to replace "means" language with structural element language. Claim 13 has been amended for consistency of terminology; no change in scope is intended. Reconsideration of the art rejections is respectfully requested in light of the remarks that follow.

Before moving to the art rejections, applicants again point out that they filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) citing six (6) documents along with the application. To date, however, that IDS has not been considered. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this IDS and the information cited therein be considered and that a copy of the Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

With respect to the art rejections, claims 1-4, 8-17, 19-20 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. patent 5,594,653 to *Akiyama et al.* (*Akiyama*) in view of Japanese patent document JP 10278364 to *Motomi*. Claims 5-7 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on *Akiyama* and *Motomi* in view of U.S. patent 6,453,208 to *Miyasaka et al.* (*Miyasaka*).

As previously stated with respect to *Akiyama*, in his system the execution of the command type having the higher priority is performed without regard to a wait state, but the execution of the command type having the lower priority is performed only when under certain conditions, e.g., cut-sheet form is detected or wait state is removed. Applicants' invention of claim 1 is just the opposite. Claim 1 recites that the second processing section executes a second process in accordance with any command of the second type, and that the execution of such process is performed in preference to the execution of a first process by a first processing section. Moreover, the claim states that the second processing section performs the second process only if the printer is in an enabled state. Independent method claim 13 contains similar recitations in steps (c) and (d). Thus, the execution of a process corresponding to the command type having the

higher priority is performed only when the printer is in an enabled state, but the execution of the command type having the lower priority is not subject to that condition.

This difference stems from the fact that the invention of claims 1 and 13 and that of *Akiyama* are directed to solving different problems. The present invention is concerned with distinguishing between false real-time commands and true real-time commands in a data stream, so only the latter are executed. In contrast, *Akiyama* is concerned with enabling real-time commands to be interpreted even in an off-line state.

The Examiner essentially contends that *Motomi* compensates for the shortcomings of *Akiyama*. Specifically, the Examiner argues that *Motomi* teaches a second processing section responsive to the indication device to perform the second process only if the indication device indicates the enabled state. Our analysis of *Motomi* reveals no such teaching. *Motomi's* page printer has a priority memory preset with priorities for the plural interfaces respectively corresponding to the plural hosts from which the page printer may receive a print request. In the event that the printer receives a print request while another print request is being processed, a control section in the printer decides whether the just-received print request has priority over the print request currently being processed. If so, the processing of the latter print request is interrupted and the just-received print request is processed. While *Motomi* teaches a basic priority processing scheme, he does not teach the specific priority processing recited in the independent claims. Applicants' priority processing, as set forth in each of the independent claims 1 and 13, can be described as follows: the second processing section executes a second process in accordance with any command of the second type, and that the execution of such process is performed in preference to the execution of a first process by a first processing section. However, the second processing section performs the second process only if the printer is in an enabled state. Thus, the execution of a process corresponding to the command type having the higher priority is performed only when the printer is in an enabled state, but the execution of the command type having the lower

priority is not subject to that condition. This processing is simply not taught by *Motomi*.

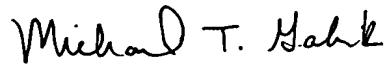
Miyasaka is cited against some of applicants' dependent claims (5-7 and 18) as teaching a counter. However, *Miyasaka*'s arrangement, which further includes a printer with a command detector to detect specified command data within the received command data and an error recovery controller to enable the printer to recover from an error state in accordance with the detected specified command data, is significantly different from applicants' claimed invention. More importantly, *Miyasaka* does not teach, alone or in combination with the above references, applicants' claimed priority processing.

In independent claim 28 a data stream containing a command for transmitting image data to the printer is checked to determine if it contains a first predetermined command, e.g., a false real-time command. If so, a second predetermined command, e.g., an RTP disable command, is sent to the printer so as to disable execution of any first predetermined command, and then the data stream is sent to the printer. By employing this process, false-real time commands embedded in a data stream of a normal print command are detected as such and then not executed when the data stream is sent. None of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach such an arrangement.

Each of new independent claims 32 and 38 is directed to a priority sequence regarding the transmission of bit-map data. If such data is detected in the data stream to be transmitted, a real-time processing disable command is first transmitted and then the data stream including the bit-map data is transmitted. In preferred embodiments, a real-time processing enable command is sent when transmission of the bit-map data is complete (claims 33 and 39), or after a predetermined amount of time elapses (claim 34). In claim 36, the processing of real-time commands comprises processing a real-time command for sending an output pulse to a predetermined connector pin of the printer and a real-time command making the printer turn off. None of these priority sequences are taught by the references of record.

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims 1, 13, 28, 32 and 38 is patentably distinguishable over the art of record including the combination of *Akiyama* and *Motomi*. The remainder of the claims, which are dependent and present additional features of the invention, are patentable for at least the same reasons as their corresponding independent claims. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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